the Hon'ble Court obsrved that the benefit of 5 per cent relaxation in marks obtained at the Master's level for appearing in the NET examination conducted by UGC should be made available to all disabled persons as done in the case of SC/ST candidates.

(c) As a follow-up action, the UGC has issued instruction providing 5 per cent relaxation at Master's level to disabled candidates for appearing in NET examinations.

Checks on prostitution

5448. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "59 girls rescued from brothels" appearing in the Hindustan Times of 26th December, 2001:

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that most of these young girls belonged to Nepal, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, and the rescue operation was helped by a NGO in the Capital';

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being taken to constitute a permanent machinery, in order to check prostitution of under-aged girls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In a a rescue operation in brothels in the Union Territory of Delhi on 24th December, 2001, 59 girls have been rescued. Of these, 27 girls belonged to Andhra Pradesh, 7 to West Bengal and 11 to Nepal. On the directives of the Delhi High Court, steps have been taken for their rehabilitation/repatriation, in consultation with respective Governments.

(d) The Government has formulated a National Plan of Action to combat trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children with the objective of reintegrating women and child victims of prostitution in society through stragegies that cover prevention, legislation and law enforcement, provision of basic services to the victims of prostitution, rescue and rehabilitation awareness generation and social mobilization. The progress of implementation of the Plan of Action is

monitored through the Central Advisory Committee headed by Secretary (WCD). The States/UTs have also set up Coordination Committees for effective enforcement of the Immoral Traffick (Prevention) Act, 1956 through regular raids, the rescue of prostitutes/child prostitutes and the protection and the counselling and rehabilitation of the rescued persons.

Grants to madarsas

†5449. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grants provided by Goverment during the last ten years to madarsas being run by the Muslim community in the country, year-wise;

(b) whether Government have the information as to their management their syllabus and their annual financial expenditure and from where the same becomes available;

(c) whether provisions of Government grants to educational institutions of a particular community violates the secular principles of the constitution, whether such grant is provided to institutions of any other community also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Since 1993-94, the Central Government has been implementing a scheme for the modernization of madarsa education. Its objective is to encourage traditional institutions like madarsas and maktabs to teach subjects as Science, Maths, English, Hindi, and Social Studies alongside the tradition curriculum. The expenditure incurred on the scheme since 1993-94 is as follows:—

Year	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1993-94	3.04
1994-95	18.99
1995-96	120.07
1996-97	241.15
1997-98	173.26

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.